

The Museum of Copenhagen has received from Greenland specimens of five species hitherto not known as Greenland birds. Mr. Winge gives their names as follows:—*Coccyzus americanus*, *Scolecophagus carolinus*, *Dendroica maculosa*, *Dendroica pensylvanica*, and *Seturus noveboracensis*.

As the Museum intends in two years or so (when the Danish expedition, which now goes to explore the east coast of Greenland, has come back) to publish a treatise on Greenland birds, Mr. Winge wished that the dates about these species should first be made known through this treatise, so I must regret my inability to give them here.

Holboel mentions that he sent to the Museum of Copenhagen a skin of *Somateria*, which I supposed to be a *Somateria V-nigra*, but Mr. Winge informs me that the Museum is not in possession of a Greenland skin of *Somateria*, which can be interpreted as *Somateria V-nigra*, which thus becomes still more problematic as a Greenland species.

I have just received a lot of Greenland bird-skins and eggs from Fredrikshaab (in lat. 62°). Of eleven skins of Gyrfalcon six are white and five gray. Two of the gray birds were shot in October, 1889, and two of the white ones in the same month; three white ones in December, 1889; the rest are unlabelled. One of the gray Falcons is so dark that it in my opinion must be a *Falco rusticolus obsoletus*. Perhaps the whole scale of color is found in Greenland.

Of seven skins of *Gavia alba*, four adults (two males and two females), were shot 26 Feb., 1890; an old male 18 April, 1890, and a young male 24 Nov., 1889. With them was a skin of *Zema sabinii*.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE PLATE of the Eared Whip-poor-will (*Otophanes melcodii* Brewster) accompanying this number of 'The Auk' is the first of a series of colored plates illustrating birds recently described from Mexico by Mr. Brewster. The second of the series, illustrating two species of *Megascops*, will appear in the October number. Later appropriate text will be furnished to accompany the plates. The Eared Whip-poor-will was described in 'The Auk,' Vol. V, 1888, p. 89, from a specimen collected by Mr. R. R. McLeod, in the Sierra Madre of Chihuahua, Mexico, Dec. 6, 1884. The characters of this peculiar bird have been faithfully portrayed by Mr. Ridgway. The type remains unique.

JOHN C. CAHOON, widely known as a field naturalist, and an energetic, expert, and conscientious collector, met his death at Curslet, Newfoundland, April 26, by a fall from a cliff, while collecting, to the rocks, seventy

feet below. Mr. Cahoon was born at Harwich, Mass., September 6, 1863, and for the last seven or eight years has been what may be termed a professional ornithological collector. Besides collecting extensively on Cape Cod, and at various points on the Massachusetts coast, he passed one season on the Gulf Coast of Florida, and has made various trips to Newfoundland. One of his most important expeditions was a trip to Arizona and Sonora in the interest of Mr. Brewster, where he spent six months, mostly in the remote and dangerous part of the mountain region of Sonora. He returned with a collection of over twelve hundred specimens, including representatives of a number of new species and subspecies, several of which Mr. Brewster named in his honor. Mr. Cahoon was widely known among ornithologists, by whom he was greatly respected for his energy, industry and skill as a collector and his keenness and intelligence as an observer. The news of his sad ending was a painful shock to his many friends.

MESSRS. H. Y. BENEDICT and Charles D. Oldright, of the University of Texas, Austin, Texas, are engaged upon a 'Catalogue of the Birds of Texas.' They intend to make it as complete a list as possible of the avifauna of this great State. In addition to their own work they are promised the aid of prominent Texan ornithologists. They will make use also of the published works and papers bearing on the subject. It is their intention to give a brief account of bird distribution in the State, in relation to topographic and climatic conditions, the State including several very distinct regions. Considering the extent of the area, and the large number of species represented in the State, they find the material for such a work scanty, and earnestly request the co-operation of all persons who have original and unpublished matter in their possession. The work will close with a bibliography of Texan ornithology.

ON JUNE 6 the whaling steamer 'Kite' sailed from New York for Greenland, having on board two exploring parties, bound respectively for North and West Greenland. The first of these parties, under command of Lieut. Peary, will land at Whale Sound, latitude $77^{\circ} 30'$ north, near which they will pass the remainder of the present season, exploring the immediate region and laying in a winter's supply of meat. Early in the spring the party set out for the exploration of North Greenland. Mr. Langdon Gibson, of Flushing, Long Island, an Associate Member of the A. O. U., accompanies the expedition as ornithologist. The West Greenland party, under Prof. A. Heilprin, will be accompanied by Prof. W. E. Hughes as ornithologist. This party, working southward from Whale Sound to Upernavik or Disco Bay and Godhaven, will return early in September.

THE DEATH VALLEY Biological Expedition, under Dr. C. Hart Merriam, mentioned in the January number of 'The Auk' (p. 122), has met with ex-

cellent success in its work, thousands of specimens having been transmitted to Washington. The exploration of Death Valley proper having been completed the work has been extended to neighboring points. Dr. Merriam himself making an extended reconnaissance across Arizona, southern Utah and Nevada. The party has recently been joined by Mr. Basil H. Dutcher of New York City.

IN THE January 'Auk' (p. 123) reference was made to a proposed investigation of the North American forms of the genus *Colaptes*, by Mr. J. A. Allen. It is Mr. Allen's intention to begin his study of the group at once, and to present the results in a paper to be read before the next Congress of the A. O. U. Considerable material has been received and much more offered. The purpose of the present note is to inform those who are willing to send material that its prompt transmission will now be considered a great favor. As stated in the former notice, large series of specimens from the Plains westward to the Pacific, and from Manitoba and British Columbia southward into Mexico are especially desired. Specimens taken in the breeding season are especially solicited, although examples taken at any season cannot fail to be of service. The packages should be addressed to the care of the American Museum of Natural History, 77th St. and 8th Avenue, New York City.

IN DECEMBER, 1887, as the readers of 'The Auk' will remember (see Auk, IV, p. 359, V, pp. 123, 221, 336, 448), a movement for the erection of a monument to John James Audubon in Trinity Cemetery, New York City, was organized under the lead of a committee of the New York Academy of Sciences of which Professor Thomas Egleston was Chairman and Dr. N. L. Britton Secretary and Treasurer. It was estimated that a suitable monument would cost from \$6,000 to \$10,000. Appeals were made, through circulars and otherwise, to the scientific men of America and elsewhere, and especially to ornithologists, for contributions to the fund. While a few contributed promptly and liberally, there was on the whole a surprising and discouraging lack of interest in the matter, and for three years the prospect of realizing the plans of the Committee were far from hopeful. As a last resort, a direct appeal was made by the Chairman to some of the wealthy citizens of New York City; many subscriptions ranging from \$25 to \$100 each, were immediately sent in response, besides a much larger number ranging from \$5 to \$15 each. The total amount raised up to the middle of June of the present year is very nearly \$7,000, only about \$3,000 remaining to complete the sum of \$10,000. It is to be hoped that the many ornithologists who, through doubt of the feasibility of the movement or for other reasons have hitherto failed to respond, will now promptly aid in completing the now comparatively small amount lacking of the sum needed. Contributions may be sent to Mr. William Dutcher (525 Manhattan Ave., New York City), Treasurer of the A. O. U. Audubon Monument Committee, or to Professor N. L. Britton (Columbia College, New York City), Treasurer of the New York Academy Committee.